

# Compliance Assistance

## EPA/USDA Projects – Livestock



# Ag Center

*Helping Agriculture Comply with  
Environmental Requirements*

F O C U S O N

## Agriculture Compliance Assistance Project: Livestock

*This fact sheet will tell you about a national project to develop programs and materials that will help livestock producers comply with environmental regulations.*



### Three-year project

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) are cooperating in a 3-year national project to help livestock producers implement sound environmental management practices and comply with environmental regulations that affect their businesses.

The livestock management compliance assistance project, for which approximately \$300,000 has been allocated, is being funded through a cooperative agreement administered by USDA's Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES) and EPA's National Agriculture Compliance Assistance Center (Ag Center).

### Nationwide team

A peer review process chose a project with the University of Nebraska and North Carolina State University as co-leaders. Other cooperators include 12 other universities and additional federal and education-related participants. (See list of cooperators below.)

The nationwide team of project participants will work closely with the Ag Center and CSREES to increase livestock producers' understanding of the principles of environmental management and to foster compliance with all environmental requirements that affect this key segment of U.S. agriculture.



*The project will develop materials and other tools to help producers use common-sense, cost-effective approaches to meeting environmental requirements.*

*The project will develop a national "core curriculum" on management and compliance.*

## OBJECTIVE 1

### **Develop a nationally recognized, producer-oriented core curriculum addressing high profile livestock environmental issues.**

A key product of the project will be a high-quality core curriculum on management and compliance topics. Experts who have pioneered similar resources will lead this effort. The curriculum will be reviewed and pilot tested in five geographic regions to ensure that it is relevant to regional and livestock species differences.

Livestock environmental issues to be addressed include

- manure storage
- advanced waste treatment systems
- odor management
- land application and nutrient management.

The curriculum modules will include

- a reference publication for livestock producers that describes design requirements, management practices, planning tools, and compliance issues
- teaching aids for information providers, including pre-planned presentations with electronic visual aids

- electronic and/or printed tools for facilitating more complex design calculations and recordkeeping processes.

The national core curriculum will be delivered to livestock industry information providers through five regional meetings. These five symposia will provide in-depth inservice education for public sector information providers (such as Extension educators and Natural Resources Conservation Service staff), engineering and environmental consultants, and key representatives of private sector allied industries (such as crop consultants and livestock feed consultants).

## OBJECTIVE 2

### **Provide livestock producers and information providers access to these curriculum resources through multiple, readily accessible delivery methodologies.**

The project will provide

- electronic access to the new resources
- regional access to in-depth educational programs for information providers responsible for delivering these resources
- access to printed publications.

*The Ag Center welcomes comments on this document and its other services.*

The project will identify

- technical resource contacts
- publications that discuss best management practices (BMPs) for storage, handling, and land application of manure
- available web-based and stand-alone software for sizing storage structures, nutrient management, record-keeping, or other technical applications
- state and federal regulations addressing animal manure management.

### Cooperators

- North Carolina State University (project co-lead)
- University of Nebraska (project co-lead)
- Cornell University
- Pennsylvania State University
- University of California - Davis
- Farm\*A\*Syst
- Iowa State University
- Kansas State University
- Mid West Plan Service
- Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA
- Agricultural Research Service, USDA
- North Carolina A&T University
- Purdue University
- University of Georgia
- University of Illinois
- University of Minnesota
- University of Missouri
- Texas A&M University

### USDA/EPA contacts

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### For more information

You can get more facts about compliance by calling the Ag Center's toll-free number. Materials can be sent to you by fax or mail, or you can talk to an Ag Center representative. For a list of all publications available from the Ag Center, request document number 10001, "Ag Center Publications."

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